

Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission



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David O. Fakunle, Ph.D.

Vice Chair
Charles L. Chavis, Jr., Ph.D.

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Joy Ayomiposi Sarimakin
Zenita Hurley, Esq.
Kristin McFarlane, Esq.

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Simone Barrett-Williams, Ph.D.
Nicholas Creary, Ph.D.
Roger Davidson, Ph.D.
Maya Davis
Teisha Dupree-Wilson, Ph.D.
Omar Eaton-Martinez
Christopher E. Haley
Kirkland Hall, Sr., Ph.D.
Elizabeth Hughes
Izetta Mobley, Ph.D.
Carl Snowden
Marshall Stevenson, Ph.D.
Stephanie Suerth

Business Meeting Minutes – June 2023

Date: Monday, June 12th, 2023
Time: 11:39am-12:48pm Eastern Time
Location: Virtual

Attendance

Commissioners	
David Armenti	ABS
Iris Barnes	X
Simone Barrett-Williams	ABS
Charles Chavis	ABS
Nick Creary	X
Roger Davidson	ABS
Maya Davis	ABS
Teisha Dupree-Wilson	X
Omar Eaton-Martinez	ABS
David Fakunle	ABS
Chris Haley	X
Kirkland Hall	X
Elizabeth Hughes	X
Izetta Mobley	ABS
Carl Snowden	X
Marshall Stevenson	ABS
Stephanie Suerth	ABS
Staff	
Sophie Asike	X
Joy Sarimakin	X
Zenita Hurley	X
Kristin McFarlane	X
Stephanie Thompson	ABS

Members of the Public Present

Emily Oland Squires, Will Schwarz, Rev. Diane Teichert, Auset Reid. Hannah Lane, Hess Stinson, Michelle Gawerc

Call to Order

Commissioner Creary called the meeting to order at 11:39am.

Approval of Minutes

The May 2023 business retreat minutes were accepted by the commission.

Public & Chair's Comments

Commissioner Creary thanked all members of the public for their presence, time, commitment, and participation. He encouraged everyone to introduce themselves and state their affiliation in the comment section. Sophie asked if a new commissioner had been selected, and Commissioner Creary answered yes, but the paperwork was still in process before it became official. Hess asked if there had been any public meetings yet because she couldn't see any on the site. Commissioner Creary confirmed that there were no public meetings scheduled yet and explained the reason, which was the absence of a project manager (PM) at the moment. He mentioned that this issue would be discussed in the meeting today. He encouraged everyone to begin making basic plans and arrangements, and to work with the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project, with whom they had collaborated before. He mentioned that there are three counties where the Maryland project lacks a local coalition to document lynchings. This necessitates the need for hearings to take place in those counties, so preparations should be made for that task. He asked Mr. Schwarz if he would be willing to help, to which Mr. Schwarz replied that he was ready to assist wherever needed. In response to Rev Teichert's question, Mr. Schwarz clarified that it's not necessary for a local coalition to have identified descendants before a hearing can take place.

Ms. Gawerc asked if it would be possible for the Governor to provide more funding to free up some commissioners for full-time commitment to the commission, which would expedite the work. Zenita confirmed that they were working on hiring a new full-time project manager and suggested that arrangements for the hearings should continue in the meantime. Commissioner Creary asked if anyone in the meeting was willing to work with the commission. Ms. Lane asked if the template for the hearings could be made available to the public. Ms. McFarlane replied that anyone interested in obtaining a copy should submit a Public Information Act (PIA) request. The commission will review the request to determine if it can be released to the public.

Ms. Gawerc reminded everyone of a previous discussion about raising awareness through social media and asked if the incoming project manager would be responsible for that. Zenita also mentioned that Chair Fakunle had asked the commissioners to contribute and work on social media based on the needs of their respective jurisdictions. The local coalition should collaborate with the commission and the commission liaison to gain access to the run of show and a template of what the commission hearing entails.

Soul Check

Commissioner Haley expressed his thoughts on the recent shooting in Annapolis and the current situation in the country. He appreciated the efforts of the commission and acknowledged the substantial work that has been accomplished. Commissioner Creary emphasized that the work of the commission is exceptional and underscores the significance of the present moment for the commission and the solutions it can offer. He mentioned that finding these solutions will require a considerable amount of patience from everyone involved.

Logistics Committee Report

N/A

Research Committee Report

N/A

Reconciliation & Justice Committee

Commissioner Creary stated that he has distributed the California Reparations Task Force recommendations to committee members. He encouraged them to read the document and suggested scheduling a meeting to discuss it before the next official gathering.

New Business

N/A

Announcements

Commissioner Snowden announced that on Friday, June 30, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., Tennessee Representative Justin Pearson will deliver the keynote speech at the Caucus of African American Leaders Summit. The event, which is open to the public, will take place at the BWI Weston Hotel in Linthicum Heights, Maryland.

Will Schwarz informed everyone that the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project's annual conference is scheduled for October 14, 2023, at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum.

Commissioner Creary shared that he will be unable to attend the next meeting as he will be assuming a new position as the Institutional Jedi Officer at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 12:48 pm. Commissioner Creary proposed a motion for the meeting to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Snowden.